
Electronic Filing (ECF) Announcement

All New Bid Protest Cases to be ECF

Effective Monday, May 1, 2006, all newly-filed bid protest cases will be deemed electronic (ECF) cases in the United States Court of Federal Claims' Case Management/Electronic Case Filing System (CM/ECF). CM/ECF has been in use for approximately three years and now covers virtually all newly-filed cases in the court, including the wide majority of government contract cases. Filings under the system are governed by General Order 42A, (go to <http://www.uscfc.uscourts.gov/rules.htm>).

While concerns regarding the protection of trade information have caused the court to go slowly in terms of deeming bid protest cases as electronic cases, CM/ECF, in fact, contains several security features that allow documents to be filed under seal and viewed only by the attorneys who properly should have access. See General Order 42A, ¶ 7 on filing documents under seal. These features of the CM/ECF have been extensively tested and are being used in other cases in which sealed documents are regularly filed.

Like all CM/ECF cases, the complaint in bid protest cases will continue to be filed in paper form. Pre-filing notices and any motions or documents accompanying the complaint also should be filed in paper. See General Order 42A, ¶ 2. Counsel should also note that General Order 42A contains provisions that apply to the filing of large appendices and records. See General Order 42A, ¶¶ 3-5. Consistent with these procedures, with leave of the court, the filing of an administrative record may be accomplished using, for example, a CD-Rom or DVD.

The Court encourages all attorneys who do not have a CM/ECF account with this Court to apply for your account as soon as possible – go to <http://www.uscfc.uscourts.gov> and click on the Electronic Filing link. The Court also recommends that you download the User Manual for Attorneys and review it before taking the certification exam. Click on the User's Manual and Documentation link and then click on the User Manual for Attorneys link on the following web page to download it. Please save the manual to your computer. After you review the User Manual for Attorneys, go back to the Court's web site, select the Electronic Filing section, and click on the CM/ECF Account Registration link to take the certification exam and electronically submit your registration form. Also, please take note that, in order to register, you must be a member in good standing of the United States Court of Federal Claims Bar.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Clerk's Office CM/ECF Help Desk at (202) 357-6402 or the toll-free number 1-866-784-6273.